

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1627

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008

FM RADIO

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ease the restrictions on FM Radio;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the views of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been sought; and
- (d) if so, the details of views expressed by TRAI?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d) As per the Policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Services through Private Agencies (Phase-II), the private FM broadcasters are not permitted to carry news and current affairs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted their recommendations on issues relating to Phase-III of expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting to the Government on 22.02.2008. The Authority, while giving recommendations on various issues, also recommended that FM Radio Broadcasters may be permitted to broadcast news taking content from All India Radio, Doordarshan, authorized T.V. News channels, United News of India, Press Trust of India and any other authorized news agency without any substantive change in the content. The Ministry after examining the recommendations formulated its views and referred it back to TRAI for further recommendations. TRAI has sent its recommendations on 28-11-2008 which are under examination of the Ministry.